

From: rferber@mail.via.net@inetgw
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/1/01 7:54pm
Subject: Bad Proposed Settlement

Greetings,

It seems that there is no substance at all to the proposed settlement. Has MicroSoft purchased the DOJ? Specific issues:

1. There seems to be nothing to curb or discourage the found anticompetitive practices exhibited by MicroSoft.
2. There is nothing that dilutes the monopoly power, oversees it, or otherwise mitigates or regulates it.
3. The settlement only deepens the Microsoft monopoly - by providing \$1 Billion in products, services, etc... to shools, they are INCREASING their market penetration, especially into shools which have traditionally had a reasonable representation of vendors and platforms. It seems it would be better to say "tsk, tsk... no remedial action necessary" than to proceed with the proposed action.

In light of the findings of the case, this is a mockery of the concept of justice, and has made the entire process seem some sort of sham. This is simple capitulation on behalf of the entire justice system.

AT&T was forced to break up, and it was a good thing in the long run. Breaking up Microsoft - applications and operating systems would be a logical division line. This would increase competition in several ways - and force clearer communication of the APIs associated with Windows and the core MicroSoft applications.

I am severely disappointed and have lost a tremendous amount of respect for the Department of Justice.

Sincerely,

Rob Ferber
rferber@via.net